
MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release:

Friday, June 2, 2006

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FREE FAIR HOUSING CLASS

Course offers housing providers, consumers chance to earn certification

RICHMOND – Virginians who lease, own or manage rental units are only hours away from avoiding a lawsuit.

The Virginia Fair Housing Office is offering a free three-hour training course for housing providers who want to protect themselves and their rental investments from legal liability. Topics cover an overview of federal and state anti-discrimination laws, advertising rules, protected classes, reasonable accommodations and modifications, and tips on compliance. Individuals who complete the training course are eligible for state certification by the Fair Housing Board.

“Ignorance of the law is not a defense,” said Mary Broz, spokesperson for the Virginia Fair Housing Board. “The Fair Housing Board wants to help housing providers educate themselves and steer clear of discriminatory practices.”

Federal and state fair housing law prohibits housing discrimination based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, familial status (defined as having children under age 18), and elderliness (defined as age 55 and older). The law protects people from discrimination when trying to rent an apartment, buy a house, obtain a mortgage, or purchase homeowner’s insurance.

WHAT:

Free Fair Housing Class

WHERE:

Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation
3600 West Broad Street, Room 395, Richmond
Accessible facility with free parking in rear of building.

WHEN:

Wednesday, June 14, 2006
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

REGISTRATION:

Advance registration required by June 12, 2006.

(804) 367-8530

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